



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DIVISION, GREAT LAKES AND OHIO RIVER
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1159
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45201-1159

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

CELRD-PDS-P

22 June 2009

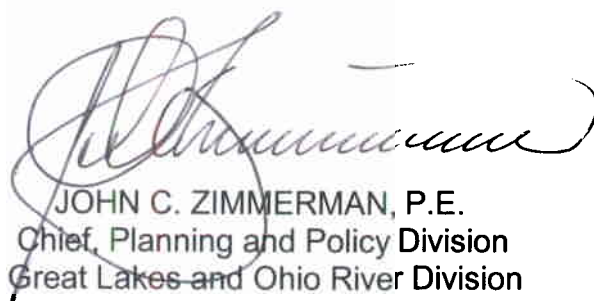
MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Chicago District

SUBJECT: Major Subordinate Command (MSC) Approval of the Review Plan for Aquatic Nuisance Species Interbasin Study, Feasibility Study

1. The Review Plan for the Aquatic Nuisance Species Interbasin Study, Feasibility Study (attachment 1) has been presented to the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division for approval in accordance with memorandum from Major General Don T. Riley, Director of Civil Works, and subject titled "Review Process" dated 30 March 2007.
2. The Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (CSSC) is a man-made waterway that connects the Chicago River and the Des Plaines River to the Illinois River. This link in water bodies further creates a waterway connection between the Lake Michigan Basin and the Mississippi River Basin. The CSSC connects the Great Lakes (GL) and the 121 tributaries to the Mississippi River (MR) and its 852 tributaries thereby providing a potential pathway for aquatic nuisance species (ANS) to spread across 30 states and two Canadian provinces. A temporary electric Demonstration Dispersal Barrier has been operating in the CSSC since 2002 and a second more permanent electric barrier, with a design life of 20 years, is to be implemented in 2 stages. However, neither of these barriers protect against the full range of ANS that can use the CSSC to transit between the two basins. The purpose of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Interbasin Study, Feasibility Study is to examine other potential pathways for ANS transmission and the full range of options and technologies available to prevent the spread of all ANS at all life stages between the GL and MR basins through the CSSC and other aquatic pathways.
3. The purpose of a review plan is to assign the appropriate level and review independence, establish the procedures, and assign responsibilities for conducting the Independent Technical Review (ITR) and External Peer Review (EPR). This review plan is compliant with the requirements of the Corps Review Process, which is documented in EC1105-2-408, dated 31 May 2005, and has been recommended by the National Ecosystem Planning Center of Expertise (ECO-PCX). Recommendations and approval from the ECO-PCX are provided as attachment 2.
4. Policy compliance and quality management verification for the Aquatic Nuisance Species Interbasin Study Review Plan have been completed. Division staff has confirmed the Review Plan has been formulated in accordance with current policy

and concurs with the recommendations by the ECO-PCX that an Independent External Peer Review of the project is necessary. Additionally, should uncertified ecological model(s) be required for the study, the ECO-PCX recommends model certification be coordinated with the ECO-PCX prior to the Feasibility Scoping Meeting (FSM). The RP should be updated when the PMP is finalized and the revised RP should also be coordinated with the ECO-PCX.

5. The District is requested to post the Review Plan to its web site and provide a link to the ECO-PCX for their use. Prior to posting, the names of individuals in the RP should be removed.
6. The Review Plan for the Aquatic Nuisance Species Interbasin Study Feasibility Study is approved by the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, Chief of Planning and Policy Division. Point of Contact for this effort is Dr. Hank Jarboe (513) 684-6050 (CELRD-PDS-P).



JOHN C. ZIMMERMAN, P.E.
Chief, Planning and Policy Division
Great Lakes and Ohio River Division